

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated December 30, 2005, claims 6-16 and 18 are canceled. Claims 1-5 and 17 are now active in this application.

The indication that claims 1-5 and 17 are allowable is acknowledged and appreciated.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

I. Claims 7, 8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takeuchi et al. (USPN 5,267,154).

Claims 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kellas et al. (USPN 5,142,616).

II. To expedite prosecution, claims 7, 8, 11, 16 and 18 are cancelled, leaving claims 1-5 and 17, indicated allowable, pending in this application.

CONCLUSION

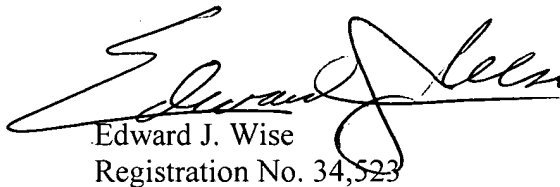
Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, overcomes the rejection of record and is in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment and favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

09/893,897

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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